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Promoting Role Model of 'Responsible Man': Gatekeepers' Views on Young Men's Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs in Uttaranchal

Background

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action and subsequent research indicates the crucial role of men in increasing family planning use and improving sexual and reproductive health. Available evidences show that family planning programs may not yield the desired reproductive and child health (RCH) goals without involving men into the initiatives (Rivers and Aggleton 2002). Most sexually active young people do not use contraception, and even those who do, experience higher contraceptive failure and are more likely to discontinue use than older people (FHI 2002). In many countries, including India, couples have not been educated about the advantages of maintaining proper spacing between births and as a result, most couples adopt contraception (such as sterilization) only after attaining the desired family size. These practices result in early age childbearing, short birth spacing and insignificant use of spacing contraceptives. All these affect the sexual and reproductive health of both women and men. According to National Family Health Survey (1999), 20 percent of total births in India occur to women aged 15-19, 41 percent of total births occur within 24 months of a previous birth, and only seven percent of women were currently using modern spacing contraceptives (IIPS and ORC Macro, 2000).

To develop effective sexual and reproductive health (SRH) educational campaigns for adolescents and youths on issues such as: appropriate age for first birth, optimum birth spacing interval (OBSI), use of contraceptive methods, and appropriate sexual and reproductive health behavior, including avoidance of risk behavior; understanding of the social context influencing these norms and behavior is critical. Some of the important reasons for non-use of contraception among young couples are the lack of proper knowledge about contraceptive methods, lack of access of newly married women to contraceptive information and services, prevailing social norms encouraging newly married to conceive soon after marriage, and being mother of son(s) as an important step of achieving status in the in-laws house. With increasing number of unmarried youth becoming sexually active at young age and increase of extramarital sex among youths, lack of contraceptive information and protection against diseases like STIs/HIV are further aggravating the situation. It is critical that youth should be educated about contraception, RH problems and how to get protection from infectious diseases like STIs and HIV/AIDS.

The gatekeepers play a critical role in facilitating / hindering access to appropriate and correct information about family planning and sexual and reproductive health, particularly to young boys and girls including newly married couples. Here 'Gatekeeper' is defined in the broadest terms that include all people who influence adolescents and youth's acquisition of knowledge and social behavior. It includes parents, teachers, community and religious leaders, officials of various developmental agencies like block development office and local self-government such as panchayat and its members.



It is equally important to understand how different gatekeepers view prevailing norms and constructs about sex and sexuality of young people and newly married couples and in case of any intervention, influencing the prevailing norms and practices, how they will react or in what way they could contribute to such initiatives. The FRONTIERS Program of Population Council with the financial assistance from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) conducted a formative study to understand family planning and SRH needs of young men and the social constructs of gender identity in which young men mature and develop. It includes study of the stakeholders as well. The findings from the study is planned to help in developing and testing possible interventions that could help in addressing young men's SRH information and service needs.

The broad objective of the study was to assess the attitude of different gatekeepers on introduction of sexual and reproductive health education for young people in their community and seek their suggestions on how it could be operationalized. The specific

questions that were explored include:

- Gatekeepers' views on socialization process and changing behavior of young men in the context of family planning, SRH behavior.
- Do they feel the need for any intervention to meet young men's SRH information needs?
- In case they feel the need of such interventions, in what way could they contribute to the initiatives?
- What government and community resources could be mobilized to address SRH needs of young men and help them to adopt role model of 'Responsible Man' who is responsible, caring, non-violent, supports gender equity and follows the ABC philosophy of Abstinence, Being Faithful and using a Condom to avoid risk behavior?

Methodology

The study was carried out in Udham Singh Nagar, a district in the state of Uttaranchal. Uttaranchal state was formed in 2000, by separating 13 hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh, to provide better governance and infrastructure to the region. Tourism and agriculture (primarily paddy and sugarcane) contribute to most of the revenue of the state. Most of the indigenous people are heterodox Hindus and Buddhists, while Sikh migrants from West Punjab have settled in the lowlands since 1947. The total population of the state is around



8.5 million with 72 percent of literacy and 70 percent of people living below poverty line, against the national average of 46 percent. Udham Singh Nagar is

dominated by Punjabi migrants and economically better developed compared to the other regions.

The study was carried out in two phases. The first phase was to understand the socio-geographic scenario of the district and get insight into the administrative structure and developmental programs in the district. In the second phase, information and perceptions of various gatekeepers / stakeholders and boys and girls about prevailing sexual and reproductive health behavior was collected using both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The gatekeepers were defined in broadest terms that beside parents and community / religious leaders also include officials from rural development agencies (Block development office, school teachers, health department and self governance / panchayat). Similarly youth were defined as all those who fall within 13-24 years of age. Special efforts were made to understand the influence of changes in economic opportunities and social environment on aspirations/expectations of young men, and their expression of *mardanagi* (masculinity) and risk behavior.

Data was collected from four villages, two each from two administrative blocks. To assess gatekeepers' views on SRH education for young men, 32 in-depth interviews and four focus group discussions were conducted with different gatekeepers. These included parents, community leaders, school teachers, faith based leaders and officials from government departments. Besides this, quantitative information from boy and girl students of 11th and 12th grade was collected using self-administered structured questionnaires in classroom setting. Altogether 234 boys and 189 girls from four intermediate colleges filled the questionnaires. To complement the quantitative data, some qualitative data from young men was also collected by conducting eight in-depth interviews and two group discussions.

This Research Update presents gatekeepers' perspective on young men and their sexual and reproductive behaviors. It also highlights their views on how sexual and reproductive health needs of young men can be addressed.

Results

Findings indicate that parents as well as other

gatekeepers are worried about the rapid changes in the aspiration, expectation and behavior of young men. While some of the changes, as perceived by them, are encouraging many others are considered bad and harmful for the young generation and community as a whole. Most of them were seriously concerned about the increasing drinking habit, use of drugs, and changing values of sexuality leading to various risk behaviors among young men. They also expressed concerns for the erosion of respect for elders, increase in violence and crime that are now being considered as stepping stone for entering into politics. Gatekeepers felt that many of these changes are consequences of wider societal changes, explosion of electronic media, and globalization of a new youth culture where extramarital sex, alcohol consumption and violence are expression of different facets of masculinity. The following sections present views of the gatekeepers on some key issues that were raised during the discussion.



Socialization of Young Men

The gatekeepers characterized today's young men as active, smarter and aggressive in obtaining higher education and well paid jobs. They are now more concerned for their health and appearance. With increasing competition they are more focused in making their careers and migrating to urban centers where they could pursue their aspirations. As one of the fathers interviewed said-

"Compared to 10-15 years before, now boys and girls try to achieve higher education. During summer vacations they do not sit idle, instead they prepare for competitions or learn computers."

But these rising aspirations, desire to earn quick money and acquire power in the community, have also been accompanied by many undesirable behaviors among young men. Most of the gatekeepers were of the view that in general young men do not respect their elders in family and community at large. Commenting on that a community leader, said-



“Boys in these days are not that obedient as they were earlier. They have less tolerance and start fighting on petty issues. They are now after girls. All this is happening because of films and television programs”

With erosion of respect and authority of elders, parents are no longer effective in guiding and socializing their children properly. Now peer group and media have emerged as the prime sources of information and influence for their behavior. The youth, however, do not see it as erosion of respect. They see it as conflict of viewpoints and expectations between the two generations. They said that when they respect their elders, elders should also respect their desire and feelings. Commenting on this, one young man said-

“No one wants to disrespect the elders. But elders should also understand that we also have our dignity/feelings. When we are sitting with our friends, they will come and start scolding unnecessarily”.

Young men felt that the level of respect also depends on *sanskar* (family teaching of socio-cultural values). Expressing this, one young man said-

“Those who get good sanskar from their parents would always respect their parents. But if they have always seen fights and violence in the family, how will they learn to respect to others?”

Box - 1

Factors Behind Increase in Undesirable Behavior

- Parents do not teach family and cultural values to their children
- With erosion of respect and authority, parents are not in position to provide proper guidance to young boys
- There is no moral education in schools
- Peer pressure is often instrumental in indulging in risk behavior
- Communication gap between two generations on sensitive issues, such as sex and reproduction
- Increased access to media, increased vulgarity in TV programs / films

Discussion shows that the influence of media and peer pressure put young men under extreme tension and anxiety to demonstrate their courage, power and ability to establish sexual relationships with girls/women. According to parents and community leaders, these are reflected in rapid increase of alcohol and drug use, individual and group violence, and pre and extra marital sex. The quotes of two fathers interviewed expressed this as-

“Boys drink alcohol and experiment sex because they want to show this to their friends. The new generation has no issues to discuss with their friends other than sex and movies.”

“The movies and TV serials have broken all the moral values. Sexually explicit scenes are not uncommon. After seeing these, boys want to behave like their ideal hero and try to find their heroine in village girls.”

Survey of school going boys also indicates that boys start drinking alcohol at an early age. In the survey, 16 percent of boys reported to have ever consumed alcohol, and the average age of first consumption was 15 years. Young men endorsed gatekeepers' views that drinking habit starts in the company of rich and affluent boys, and felt that there are only a few boys who keep themselves away from it. Expressing this one young man said-

“Only your friends will compel you to smoke and drink alcohol. No parents would like their children to get into these bad habits. But everybody is drinking these days, so boys catch this habit very easily.”

It is interesting to note that many risk behaviors like drinking, gambling and sex are perceived as upper class characteristics and expression of *mardanagi* (masculinity). According to the informants, many aspiring youth copy/adopt these behaviors to be associated with the higher strata of the society. As one of the parents commented-



“Middle class boys want to associate themselves with the higher class. For this they fashion like rich boys and adopt their behaviors such as cigarette smoking, alcohol use, gambling, and sex with girls”

The young men also expressed the influence of smoking and drinking among rich and affluent boys on middle class boys who try to copy their habits and aspire to join their group. One young man expressing his views in FGD said-

“Smoking and drinking habits of rich and affluent boys largely affect those boys who want to become like them. They help develop these habits among other boys by spending their money by offering drinks and inviting them to their parties.”

Perceived association of drinking and smoking with masculinity and adulthood on the one hand, and its association with the upper class and political bosses have significantly increased drinking in Udham Singh Nagar district. Many gatekeepers expressed their concern to this changing trend among the young men, as one of the fathers said-

“Drinking of alcohol has now become a fashion among the boys. Boys drink alcohol with their peers. They often start drinking under pressure from their

adult peers who project it as pathway to adulthood and pleasure. They consider drinking and risk taking behavior also as expressions of mardanagi (masculinity).”

The gatekeepers felt that demonstration of the power and affluence by the politicians and projecting it as a paying vocation has also influenced the behavior of adolescent boys and young men. They felt that politicians' interference has increased in the schools/colleges as they see students as useful and strong constituency to realize their political ambitions by providing them support and at times doing odd jobs for them. Commenting on this, one school teacher said-

“The politics has entered in the schools/colleges now. Politicians support the students to become a leader in the schools. When there are students' union elections, they put lot of money. The school/college elections have become as prestigious as parliament or assembly elections. This has changed the mind of students, now everyone wants to be a political leader.”

Young men also see politics as a profession that has far less hurdles to achieve power and affluence than getting a high paid job. One young man, interviewed, commented-

“These days, only politics has power and money. With shrinking job opportunities, people do not get a good job easily. For politics, however, you need not to clear a competitive exam. Therefore, today many of us feel that why to waste time and energy in text books.”

All segments of informants were concerned about spread of vulgarity and easy access to pornographic materials in the rural areas through video compact disk (VCD) players. According to them pornographic CDs are easily available in most of the villages. They were also concerned about the TV serials that support or encourage free mixing among boys and girls, extramarital sex and affluent way of life. They felt that spread of cable TV and VCDs are the major cause of increase in premarital and extramarital sexual activities in the villages. As one school teacher said-

“The sexual activities and violence are increasing mainly because they are overtly shown in TV programs and movies of these days. The whole definition of love has changed for boys; they just want to make sexual

relations. CDs, blue films are easily available in most of the villages and regularly seen by boys and young men.”

Parents felt that they were unable to restrict their children's access to blue films and CDs. Expressing this problem, a father said-



“One day I switched on my TV to see a movie. I picked up one CD from my son's drawer and inserted it in the player. It was a blue film. I immediately took it out and destroyed it. I have two sons, one is 18 years and other is 15 years old. I am sure one of them had brought this CD, but I did not have courage to ask my sons about the CD as it is embarrassing to me as well as to them.”

Young men, however, felt that they watch blue films to gain knowledge and to satisfy their curiosity. Commenting on this, one young man said-

“We discuss sexual issues with our friends. When friends share their enjoyment and knowledge gained from blue films, than everyone would desire to see such a film and get that enjoyment.”

Overall the parents felt that in the changing social environment, parents and community elders are losing their roles as guide and mentor of the adolescents and young boys. Right from their childhood, TV and their peers now influence their socialization process. Parents are no more role models. Smoking, drinking, violence and sex are identified as way of life of current political and affluent class and majority of the youth want to be part of it.

Gender - Based Violence

Increasing sexual and gender based violence (GBV) is yet another worrying trend which was frequently mentioned by the gatekeepers. The study shows that influence of broader socio- economic development in Udham Singh Nagar, and exposure to mass media/cable TV and serials have made significant influence on young girls/women also. Now more girls are getting education, joining paid labor force and have more opportunities to socialize with the opposite sex. All these have perhaps helped in raising their self-esteem and have made them more assertive. Premarital sex though strongly rejected, under the influence of global youth cultural promoted by electronic media, particularly cable TV and movies, and increased opportunities to mix with opposite sex, increase in sexual experimentation among young women is also reported. Major proportion of Udham Singh Nagar population is based on Punjabi-migrants who hold strong patriarchal norms. Hence any change in young women's status violating sexual norms could be considered as challenge to male authority, leading to increased gender-based violence. A probing of the gatekeepers on the possible reasons for increase in gender-based violence supports some of the above observations (Table 1).

Table 1: Main Causes of Increased Gender Based Violence Against Women in Families (n=28)

Perceived Causes	Gatekeepers				All (28)	
	Parents (10)	Community Leaders (10)	Teachers / Govt. Officers (8)		N	%
Suspicion on women's character	9	10	8		27	96
Not obeying husbands	7	8	6		21	75
Arguing with husbands	5	5	4		14	50
Increased drinking among men	4	3	5		12	43
Increased demand of dowry	2	3	2		7	25

As the figures in Table 1 show, suspicion on woman's character (n=27), disobeying (n=21) and arguing with husbands (n=14) were the most frequently mentioned reasons for the increased gender-based violence. Increase in drinking habits among young men and increased as well as frequent demand of dowry are perceived as other important factors for increase in GBV. Commenting on this, one of the community leaders said-

“When a man comes home after drinking, he wants everything right on right time. Even a small delay in simple things like provision of water is not tolerated. Man loses his temper and starts abusing wife.”

In general, the gatekeepers did not approve of wife beating in most of the circumstances except in case a woman is suspected of having affair with someone. Almost all (96 percent) the gatekeepers supported wife beating in such circumstances. A typical quote expressing their view on this issue is given below-



“A man can tolerate every mistake of wife, but he cannot tolerate wife being characterless. After all it is associated with family's respect in the society.”

They also felt that because of becoming knowledgeable and aware of their rights, many women question the tradition of being *pativrata* (faithful to and follower of husband). They referred to the TV serials and movies that show and project extramarital affairs of women as expression of their independence from the traditional values and construct of a good woman. Women also question men's 'right' to extramarital sex. Gatekeepers felt that all these are perhaps instrumental in increasing element of suspicion between husband-wife relationships, further leading to increased violence among them. Expressing this, a young woman said during FGD-

“These days, women do not tolerate atyachar (violence) for the sake of being pativrata. They can also question husband about his extramarital affair and bring him to court.”

The gatekeepers also felt that women's increased assertiveness for their rights and being heard in family affairs sometimes leads to arguments with husbands, and leads to violence. As young women are more conscious of their rights and assert to use it, gender-based violence is seen more often among young couples. A male community member, expressing this, said-

“Education and exposure to mass media has made young women knowledgeable and aware of their rights. Many times they argue and confront in the family, especially when they do not get role in family decision-making as men. In such situations, man uses violence to prove and hold his authority.”

Sexual Behavior of Young Men

Though the society does not approve premarital sex, majority of gatekeepers (22 out of 28) believed that in their villages, now many more boys and girls have become sexually active before marriage than earlier. Majority felt that premarital sex is increasing in the area, regardless of cast and class of the community.

The survey of school going boys supported these views. According to the survey results, 21 percent of boys were sexually active and their average age at sexual initiation was 15 years.

BOX- 2

Reasons for increase in premarital/extramarital sex

- Kind of TV programs/films produced these days
- Easy and wide availability of blue films in the rural areas
- Increased opportunities for socializing with opposite sex
- Erosion of respect to elders and less parental control and supervision
- Effect of western dresses and fashion among girls
- Adoption of western culture of eating and drinking

The informants linked the increasing sexual experimentation among young people to the vulgarity shown in TV programs and movies. Some of them also said that fashion and dresses that girls wear these days are sexually provocative, especially for the young men who are generally on the lookout for ways to satisfy their sexual fantasies. Many gatekeepers expressed concerns for the globalization of youth culture, which is particularly influenced by western norms and fashion that allow sexual adventure, violence and greed for making quick money and consumerism. They felt that changing sexual environment and constructs of sexuality are influencing both boys and girls. Today, they felt, young girls are also open to sexual adventure.

A community member expressed this as-

“Western culture and fashion are spoiling our children. Television and cinema has polluted the social environment. These factors have contributed to increase in sexual activities.”

Young women also endorsed gatekeepers' perception of increase in sexual experimentation before marriage both among boys and girls. A young woman in a group discussion said-



“Girls are also increasingly experimenting sexual pleasure. This is increasing because of media influence. They want to experience, what they see in films and songs in the TV.”

Lack of guidance from parents and absence of sexual and reproductive health education were frequently cited as reasons for increasing risk behavior among youth, a community leader expressing his concerns said-

“These days children lack morality and self-control. No one is there to tell the children that what is wrong and what is right? Children are growing on their own without any directions from parents or teachers.”

In general, even among the parents, there is a consensus that with erosion of parents' respect they are not in a position to control or streamline young men's behavior.

Some of them also felt that they themselves lack knowledge about many subjects (including reproductive health) and hence they cannot guide their children. Indeed, the social and normative distance between father and children is a major barrier in discussing sexual and reproductive health issues.

Need of Sexual and Reproductive Health Education

There was a general consensus among parents and other gatekeepers on the need of providing SRH education to young people. In absence of authentic and socially approved sources of SRH information, the boys and young men generally discuss their sexual and reproductive health concerns with their friends. They also try to seek information on sex and reproduction from books, magazines, films and peers. Often boys buy pornographic books in order to learn more about sex and diseases. Most of them felt that- *“These books have inaccurate information and often misguide the young people”*. Some informants also said that since pornographic films are easily available in the villages, it has become an important source for young men to learn about sex and fulfill their sexual anxieties.

According to the informants, young men seek SRH information on variety of issues like masturbation and semen loss, how to satisfy sexual partner and host of sexual worries. Some of the topics, which were frequently mentioned by the gatekeepers as young men's concerns, are given in the Box 3. Interestingly the need for contraception was not mentioned by any gatekeeper.

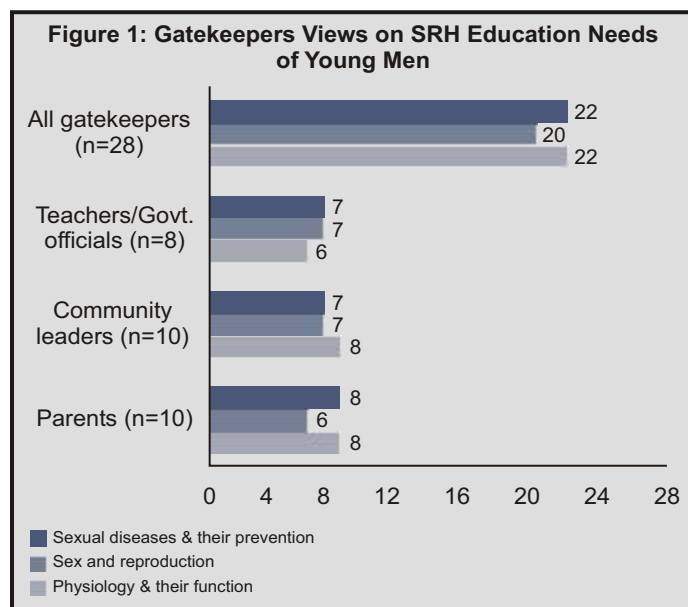
BOX - 3

SRH Concerns among Young Men

- Masturbation, semen loss and its effect on health
- Ideal shape and size of sexual organs
- What is perfect intercourse?
- How to satisfy a woman sexually?
- What are sensitive points on girls' body
- How do women get pregnant?
- How are Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) spread?
- How to prevent Sexually Transmitted Diseases HIV / AIDS?
- Sexual worries related to performance

The informants felt that young men often have many sexual worries particularly about size of sexual organ and performance related issues. Few, however, have correct guidance and counseling to address these issues. Parents are not in a position to help them both because they also lack knowledge but more because of social inhibition to discuss these issues with children.

They also feel that discussing on SRH may further erode their respect and authority in family. Most (22 out of 28) gatekeepers felt that boys need to know about their body, sex and reproduction and about sexually transmitted diseases and their preventions (Figure 1). Six out of 28 informants, mostly teachers and government officers, felt that boys also need to know about women's body.



Probing on how to impart SRH education among adolescents and youth and which agency should take lead, many suggestions were offered (Table 2).

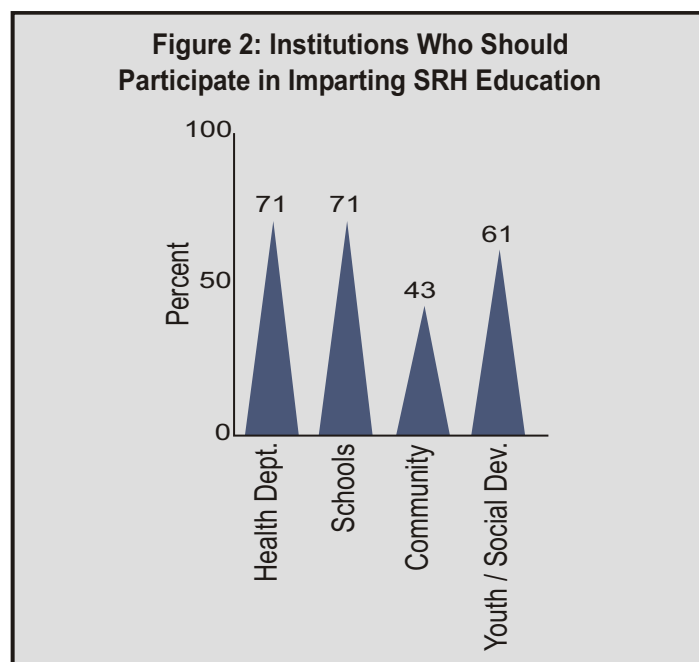
Table 2: Suggested Institutions That Should Participate in Imparting SRH Education

Gatekeepers	Schools	Health Department	Community	Youth and Social Development Agency
Parents	7	8	3	6
Teachers / Govt. officials	5	5	7	5
Community leaders	8	7	2	6
All (N =28)	20	20	12	17

It was felt that a combined effort is important by all stakeholders to get the best results. However, in general, there was consensus that schools, health department and developmental agencies, such as Department of Youth Welfare, are in a better position to take the lead in the initiative. Some (12 out of 28) gatekeepers, primarily the teachers and government officials, suggested that there should be community based activities such as community meetings, group

discussions, lectures, etc. to raise the awareness of all but particularly parents and young men. While the parents and community leaders were supportive to such initiatives, the government officials expressed their willingness to organize, supervise and provide support to all village level SRH interventions.

The government officials suggested that Youth Welfare Department could be instrumental in implementing community based SRH interventions. According to them, they have been carrying out youth development activities, such as rural sports, in the villages by establishing village based *Yuvak Mangal Dal* (youth clubs). Addition of SRH education and projecting image of 'Responsible Man' could be easily integrated into the program.



Parents felt that education, health and development departments should take lead and start *abhiyan* (program) to educate young men about SRH and adverse effects of drinking and violence. Interestingly not many parents showed interest in NGOs as potential source for addressing SRH needs of young people. They showed their willingness to participate in community level activities and to take more initiative to provide guidance and supervision to young men at home. One community member, a father, said-

"Parents should start giving sexual education to their children after 10 years of age. Like the way they teach A, B, C, D... to their children. Education should not be given only when there are changes in their body."

They felt that community level activities will provide opportunities to enhance interaction between them and their children and they can encourage the young men to adopt role model of 'Responsible Man'. Supporting need of community based activities, a community leader said-

“There should be village level activities to strengthen social and cultural values and what is expected from the young generation. Parents and elders from the village should tell the boys that what is wrong and what is right.”

Teachers felt that it is important to impart SRH education in schools. But they also stressed on the need of community mobilization to create supportive environment for young people to receive education on sensitive issues. The teachers felt that unless parents and community at large is taken into confidence and they start appreciating need of SRH education for their children, introducing such a course at the school level could always be questioned by few parents. Teachers quoted examples of fathers' reactions about the ongoing HIV/AIDS education in their schools-

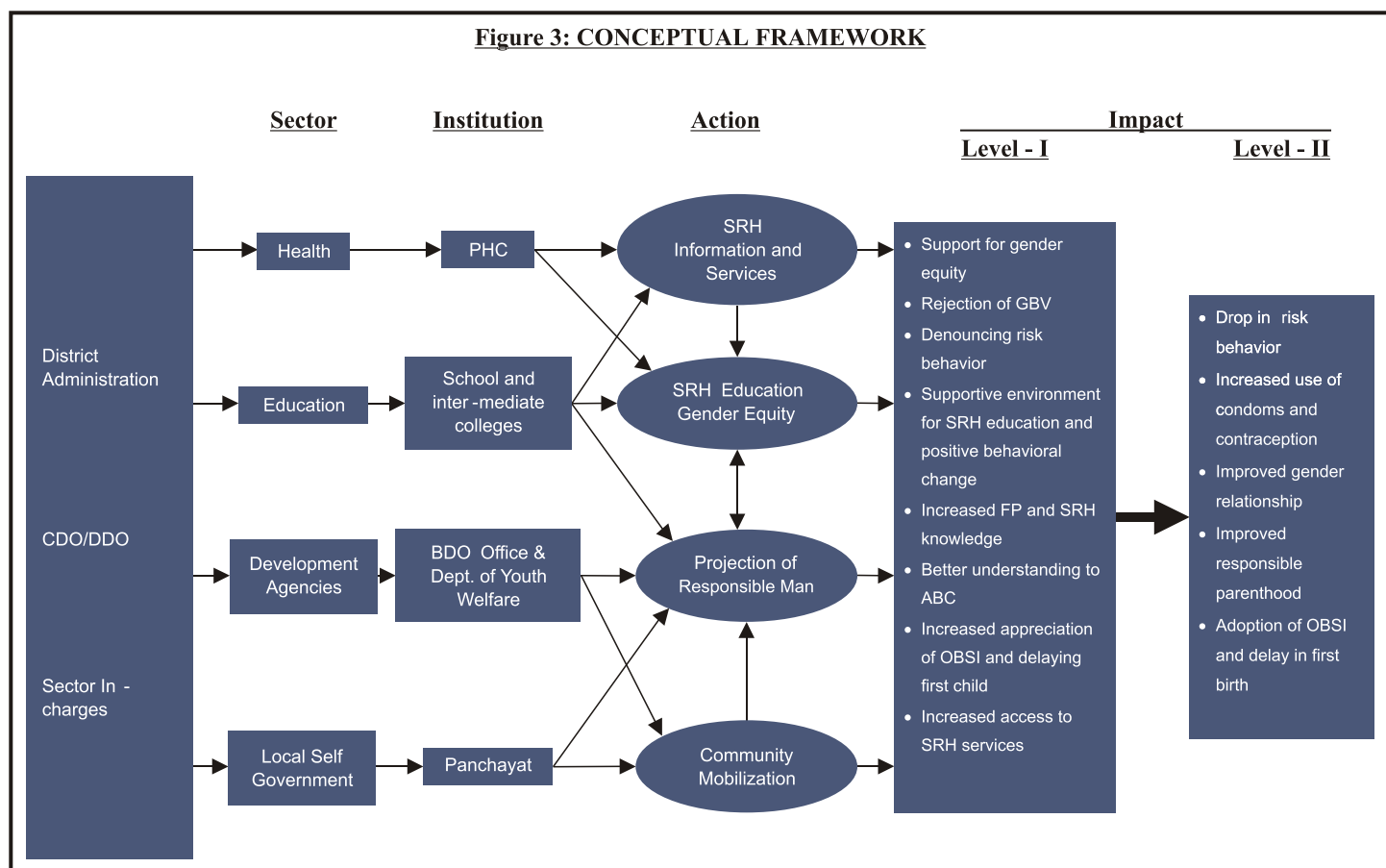
“This age of children is to learn about textbooks and course, why do you tell them about these irrelevant topics.”

“My girl comes to school to receive education, why are you telling her ulti-seedhi baaten (wrong things) and spoiling her mind.”

Community level program, lectures and group meetings supported by panchayat and development agencies go a long way in creating such supportive environment and could have a synergic effect of the efforts put in by different partners.

Figure 3 presents pathways to work with young men to help them adopt model of 'Responsible Man'. This framework is based on the suggestions given by parents and other gatekeepers. As the figure shows, the stakeholders perceive it as joint effort and trace the possible path/process through which it may influence the behavior of young men. It was encouraging that all of them were willing to participate and contribute their share in this effort. Apparently the model looks doable but its actual potentiality could be judged only after the implementation.

Figure 3: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



Lessons Learned

- Gatekeepers felt that with modern technological development and explosion of electronic media, a new youth culture is emerging. They characterized today's young men as active, smarter and aggressive in pursuing their goals. They now strive for higher education and aspire for high paid jobs. They are now more concerned for their health and have developed taste for expensive fashionable goods.
- The respect and importance of parents and elders as guide and mentor of their children has eroded. Young men feel that their parents and elders are traditional, less educated and are not aware of modern challenges and opportunities. They also feel that elders do not understand their desire and feelings.
- Erosion of respect for elders among young people, parents' lack of detailed knowledge on sexuality and social distance between parent and young children are some of the key bottlenecks for parents to educate the younger generation on sexuality and how to develop and pursue a healthy sexual life.
- Drinking of alcohol among youth has significantly increased. Young people identify drinking as a symbol of high and affluent society and expression of masculinity and adulthood.
- Increasing number of young men are getting involved in fighting and violence both in and outside the house. Community/gang violence, drinking and acquiring wealth irrespective of means, are considered stepping-stones to active politics.
- Increasing number of young men and women are indulging in pre and extramarital sex. Gatekeepers attributed this to vulgarity and obscenity on cable TV and movies and easy access to blue films even in remoter villages. Parents have no clue on how they could help their children on sexuality and other SRH issues.
- To promote image of 'Responsible Man' who is responsible, caring, non-violent, supports gender equity and follows ABC to avoid risk behavior, all the gatekeepers supported the provision of SRH education. They recommended that education, health and development departments should take lead to introduce *abhiyan* (program) to educate young people about SRH and help them to adopt

role model of 'Responsible Man'.

- Teachers and government officials expressed their willingness to participate in any such initiative.

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The Update presents the views of parents and other gatekeepers on sexual and reproductive health education needs of young men. The in-depth enquiry with gatekeepers was conducted by the FRONTIERS staff in villages of two administrative blocks of Udham Singh Nagar (Rudrapur) district of Uttaranchal.

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